Haryana Urban Development Authority for construction of a toll plaza at Delhi-Haryana border on National Highways-8. The matter has been taken up with the State Government by NHAI and the decision of the Government of Haryana is awaited. In anticipation of approval, the concessionaire has started work at site.

National Highway between Vallarpadam and Kalamassery

1021. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal of the Kerala Government seeking sanction for National Highway project between Vallarpadam and Kalamassery to link with Vallarpadam Trans-shipment Terminal is pending with Government;

(b) if so, the time by which the sanction is likely to be accorded;

(c) whether the State Government of Kerala have sought some engineering solutions from the National Highways Authority to reduce certain environmental impact; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider to extend the assistance requested for ?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No National Highway project from the Government of Kerala for linking Vallarpadam and Kalamassery has been received. However, Cochin Port Trust has requested the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) for NH connectivity to Vallarpadam International container Trans-shipment Terminal.

(b) It is too early to indicate the time frame for sanction.

(c) and (d) The NHAI has approached the Kerala Costal Zone Management Authority for Costal Regulation Zone's (CRZ) clearance: The Government of Kerala has recommended for CRZs clearance to the Ministry of Environment and Forest, Government of India, Further action depends on the response from the Ministry of Environment and Forest.

Bifurcation of MMD

1022. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether demands have been made to bifurcate the MMD (Mercantile Marine Department) under the Directorate General of Shipping;